



# SITREP

## LEHIGH VALLEY DETACHMENT 296

[HTTP://WWW.LVMCL.COM](http://www.lvmcl.com)

**DETACHMENT MEETINGS:**  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 1930  
EMAUS FIRE CO. No. 2  
1017 Pennsylvania Ave  
Emmaus PA 18049

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS

• *Commandant*

Marie "Ria" Mattix

• *SR Vice Commandant*

Bill Stoudt

• *JR Vice Commandant*

John Eyer

• *Judge Advocate*

Cory Shellhamer

• *Adjutant/Paymaster*

Colyer James

• *Chaplain*

Joseph Malia

• *Sergeant at Arms*

Rondell Anderson

• *Web Sergeant*

Jason Smith

## 2022 OFFICER INSTALLATION



It is hard to believe it has already been a year since we stood up front and took the oath to serve as Lehigh Valley Detachment 296 Officers. 2021 brought with it many firsts for those of us who were new to our positions. However, with the help and guidance from our Veteran Officers, and the support and encouragement from the Detachment, we were able to settle into our roles. I would like to highlight some of the events from this past year that have stuck in my mind. We kicked off the busy season with replacing American Flags at Veteran graves at Calvary Cemetery. I was honored to be given the opportunity to represent the Detachment both on TV and via radio interview for Memorial Day, members of the Detachment (as part of the Emmaus Veterans Committee) participated in numerous Honor Guard Ceremonies leading up to Memorial Day, and we had quite a few "Red Hats" march in the Emmaus Memorial Day Parade. I got to present 15 Eagle Scouts with Certificates, American Flags, Detachment coins, and Eagle Scout Medals (having two girls, I had never been to a Court of Honor before). Detachment Officers, along with a few members, attended both the Department of PA Convention, and the Northeast Division Conference. National Chaplain Howard Schaeffer and I attended the MCL National Convention in August and were at Arlington National Cemetery in December to lay wreaths at gravesites as part of the National Wreaths Across America program. Officers and members of the Detachment placed wreaths at local cemeteries. We had our annual Detachment picnic in August. November was full of excitement with all the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day events, along with our third annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball. In addition, there were two Color Guards, a few Rose Program fundraisers at the Emmaus Farmer's Market, one Funeral Ritual, and over 70 Honors were performed by our members who belong to the EVC. It was certainly an exciting first year for me, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve as your Commandant again this year. THANK YOU to all the Officers and members of Detachment 296 for making it so easy to be your Commandant. You are all so much more than just a Detachment to me, you are family. Together, let's show 2022 (and the Marine Corps League) what we are made of. Semper Fidelis ~ Ria Mattix, Commandant, MCL LV DET 296

# THE MONTH IN REVIEW

## WANTED:

**IDEAS FOR FUN ACTIVITIES FOR US TO DO AS A DETACHMENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT WE CAN DO OUTSIDE OF A MEETING TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER, PLEASE LET ONE OF THE OFFICERS KNOW. A COUPLE OF IDEAS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN BROUGHT TO THE TABLE ARE A MOVIE AND PIZZA NIGHT, AND BOWLING. ANY OTHER IDEAS ARE WELCOMED. PLEASE LET COMMANDANT MATTIX, OR ONE OF THE OTHER OFFICERS KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS...**

## SCUTTLEBUTT FROM THE FLEET

Follow the link below to find out what is happening now in the FMF:

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2022/02/08/the-marines-likely-wont-gender-integrate-at-the-boot-camp-platoon-level-heres-what-we-know/>

If you would like to submit something to *The SitRep*, please contact me via email or text. I welcome any input you, as a Detachment, may have. My apologies in advance if I have omitted any matters of importance for this month's edition and ask that you let me know if I have done so.

Semper Fi Marines!

Ria Mattix

[riamcl296@gmail.com](mailto:riamcl296@gmail.com)

484-788-2980

## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

CFC#2 Emmaus, Pa. 26 January 2022 1730 hours

Marine Corps League Detachment 296

Minutes are as follows:

Roll Call of Officers finds all present

Application for New Members: NONE

Motion was requested to accept previous month's minutes. Motion was made and seconded

For: 17 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Correspondence: NONE

Report of Paymaster: balance at time of meeting: \$5527.43. Report in full available for review at Officer's table. Motion to accept was requested and seconded

For: 17 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Sick or in Distress: two Members Bill Waelchli and John Lesniak reported Covid symptoms at meeting time. Junior Past Commandant Smith's infant cousin is now at home, enjoyed the holidays, and is progressing. Hold all these individuals in your prayers

Report of Officers: Commandant Ria Mattix and Paymaster Colyer James attended the Department Meeting earlier this month. Commandant Ria Mattix discussed Department media and will follow with a member email. Secondly, an initiative (in initial stages), to rebuild Tun Tavern for the 250th Birthday of the Marine Corps is in progress

Standing Committees: Web/Media Sergeant Jason Smith reports Website is up to date. If a member needs a change or new photo for the online roster, contact Jason Smith. Commandant Mattix requests members take and share photos of our events

Marine of the Year: NONE

Ball Committee: confirmation that the room is now being held for Ball

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business: National Chaplain and Detachment member Howard Schaeffer announced his election as President of the Lehigh Valley Realtors Organization

Officers Installation: Our 2021 Board of Officers were installed, and Oath of Office readministered for 2022. Presiding in the Ritual were National Chaplain and Detachment member Howard Schaeffer (Chaplain), Junior Past Commandant Jason Smith (Installing Officer) and a Past Marine of the Year Bob Hoffman (Sergeant at Arms). Please Support these Officers for the coming year. Appointed positions Paymaster/Adjutant Colyer James, Chaplain Joe Malia and Sgt At Arms Rondell Anderson, were also reappointed

Junior Past Commandant Jason Smith commended Commandant Ria Mattix. Commandant Ria Mattix commended her Staff of Officers for their efforts and support, as well as thanking the Detachment for theirs

Good of the League: Associate member Joe Dunton, on behalf of the Emmaus Veterans Committee, advised of progress of the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. He asked for our assistance for cooperation in this endeavor

Meeting was closed

Respectfully Submitted

Fred R. Babcock

Life Member